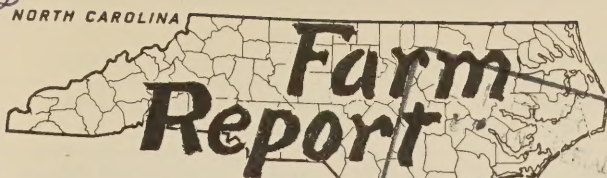


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COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

APR 1 2 1953
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RALEIGH, N. C.

No. 107

RALEIGH, N. C.

APRIL 15, 1952

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APRIL 1, 1952 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL CONDITIONS AS OF APRIL 1

Rainfall during March more than replenished soil moisture supplies in practically every section of the State. Rains were general and rather frequent in occurrence throughout the month. As of April 1 soils were too wet for field work in most areas and spring work was lagging behind schedule in some sections. Temperatures were generally favorable although slightly on the cool side in some eastern counties, especially in the commercial vegetable areas.

Flue-cured tobacco plant beds were, for the most part, in satisfactory condition. Blue mold, midge larvae and grubs are present in plant beds, especially in southeastern counties. However, most growers have successfully minimized damage by proper control measures. Transplanting is expected to become general around mid-April. Some burley plant beds were still to be seeded after April 1, but growing plants are in fairly good condition.

Wheat prospects improved during the month and as of April 1 good yields are promised. The condition of oats improved during the month, but due to late fall planting some winter-kill damage occurred. Stands are rather ragged in some Piedmont counties.

Pasture grasses, favored by an abundance of moisture, are showing signs of overcoming the setback inflicted by the summer and fall drought of last year. This improvement has been most welcomed by dairymen and livestock producers since surplus feed supplies were running out in some sections. Fruit prospects were good as of April 1, but many growers expressed a note of caution since killing freezes are still quite possible. Peach trees were in full bloom in the Sandhills area around April 1. Farm labor supplies are adequate for present needs in many localities, but for the State as a whole a general scarcity exists.

1952 FARM CENSUS RELEASES

Starting with this issue of the Farm Report, results of the 1952 North Carolina Farm Census are being published. (See table page 2). The county totals will be published for each county submitting an acceptable report as they become available.

This information was contributed by farmers to the County Commissioners through their Farm Census Supervisors and Township Listers during January and February.

Copies of individual county releases will be available upon request after the county totals are published in this release.

Cigarette manufacture - main outlet for flue-cured and burley tobacco - set a new record in 1951 and a further increase is in prospect for 1952.

MILK PRODUCTION BEGINS SEASONAL UPSWING

Production of milk on North Carolina farms totaled 135 million pounds during March. This was no change from March production a year ago but was 5 percent above production during February this year and marks the normal point of upswing in the seasonal pattern of production. March production was about 14 percent above the 1941-50 average for the month. Much of this gain is the result of progressively higher production per cow as well as increases in numbers of milk cows on farms. March production per cow at 352 pounds was the third highest of record being exceeded by 354 pounds in 1951, 358 pounds in 1950 and compares with the 1941-50 average of 325 pounds.

TOBACCO TRANSPLANTING UNDERWAY IN EASTERN N. C.



PRELIMINARY 1952 COUNTY FARM CENSUS SUMMARIES

Farm Census Items	Units	Tyrrell	Clay	Hyde	Alamance	Rutherford	Transylvania	Pamlico	Pitt
Farm Land 3 acres and over	Acres	45,699	55,443	69,009	242,308	259,177	54,720	82,290	366,062
Harvested crop land	"	15,759	8,602	33,766	59,391	53,887	9,773	26,324	164,771
Idle crop land	"	939	3,294	1,314	29,243	35,050	2,210	4,249	3,421
Improved pastures	"	2,227	3,473	1,105	14,669	12,570	2,488	2,051	6,940
All other pasture land	"	494	5,934	1,890	16,534	19,322	6,481	1,827	2,529
All other land	"	26,280	34,140	30,934	122,471	138,348	33,768	47,839	188,401
Corn Harvested	"	6,242	4,174	11,766	17,930	20,391	5,247	8,680	77,154
Cotton Harvested	"	442	-	825	138	8,457	-	513	12,585
Tobacco Harvested	"	-	65	*	6,819	36	23	1,620	39,084
Peanuts grown alone	"	359	6	3	61	187	-	27	9,104
Wheat Harvested	"	103	164	192	9,337	6,022	34	117	529
Oats Harvested	"	165	303	1,414	7,883	4,405	65	2,079	3,192
All other small grains harv.	"	39	89	78	1,003	945	98	241	444
Soybeans (alone for beans)	"	7,307	76	18,397	2,004	908	140	9,534	4,623
" (grown with other crops)	"	2,277	27	339	109	189	1	317	1,832
Lespedeza for seed	"	63	21	1,418	2,586	373	2	441	193
Hays - Harvested (see below)	"								
Soybeans - Cowpeas	"	294	162	423	1,404	1,641	79	870	4,900
Small grains	"	2	89	9	758	1,325	58	109	948
Lespedeza	"	94	446	354	10,708	5,431	328	577	3,289
Alfalfa	"	-	272	17	967	1,494	28	16	92
All other hays	"	28	2,793	-	1,275	1,261	2,266	64	207
Irish Potatoes	"	892	132	286	132	231	447	738	830
Sweet Potatoes	"	131	37	2	107	480	14	950	1,127
Other Vegetables (sale)	"	54	13	195	819	1,069	447	373	1,193
Commercial Fertilizers 1951	Tons	3,543	1,050	4,370	11,641	9,606	1,797	5,850	47,805
Sows & Gilts (Dec. to June) 1/	No.	1,341	308	801	748	477	96	493	6,022
Cows & Heifers 2 yrs. +	"								
Kept mainly for milk	"	343	1,646	634	5,991	4,051	1,061	304	1,830
Kept mainly for beef	"	656	563	794	2,328	1,028	601	405	2,112
Hens and Pullets	"	23,538	124,582	32,050	84,343	82,403	19,278	17,694	168,797
Tractors - usable on farms	"	218	90	266	1,303	690	98	329	1,739
All people on farms 2/	"	2,643	4,035	3,303	17,620	17,240	4,685	4,496	30,842

1/ Farrowing (during half-year) Dec. 1, 1951 to June 1, 1952, instead of sows on hand.

2/ People living on the tracts of three or more acres of land January, 1952.

* Tobacco acreage omitted to avoid disclosing individual operations.

PEACH PROSPECTS GOOD

As of April 1, prospects pointed to another good peach crop in North Carolina. Temperatures during the winter months, while not severe, were low enough to guarantee an adequate length of the dormant season. Orchards generally have been well pruned and fertilized. As a result, trees appear to have good vitality despite last year's heavy production.

Bloom generally has been heavy this year and by April 1, no frost or freeze damage has been sustained.

PEACHES
CONDITION APRIL 1

STATE	AVERAGE 1941-50	1949	1950	1951	1952
N. C.	77	43	71	80	87
S. C.	72	33	64	86	82
GA.	71	54	57	75	74
FLA.	68	61	45	54	69
ALA.	67	53	41	38	78
MISS.	70	62	53	35	72
ARK.	71	84	71	29	61
LA.	72	75	77	43	68
OKLA.	62	76	73	48	43
TEX.	68	82	58	52	39
10 STATES	71	55	62	65	72

Consumption of cigarettes, snuff and smoking and chewing tobacco in the first 2 months of this year was at about the same rates as a year earlier, while tax-paid withdrawals of large cigars were up 5 percent.

On March 15, last year, wool prices received by farmers reached an all-time peak of \$1.12 cents per pound, 189 percent of parity. On March 15, 1952, the average was down to 53 cents, 88 percent of parity.

POPULATION OF NORTH CAROLINA, URBAN AND RURAL: 1790 TO 1950 1/

CENSUS DATE	STATE POPULATION	URBAN POPULATION	RURAL POPULATION	PERCENT OF TOTAL	
				URBAN	RURAL
1950 (APRIL 1)...	4,061,929	1,238,193	2,823,736	30.5	69.5
1940 (APRIL 1)...	3,571,623	974,175	2,597,448	27.3	72.7
1930 (APRIL 1)...	3,170,276	809,847	2,360,429	25.5	74.5
1920 (JAN. 1)...	2,559,123	490,370	2,068,753	19.2	80.8
1910 (APRIL 15)...	2,206,287	318,474	1,887,813	14.4	85.6
1900 (JUNE 1)...	1,893,810	186,790	1,707,020	9.9	90.1
1890 (JUNE 1)...	1,617,949	115,759	1,502,190	7.2	92.8
1880 (JUNE 1)...	1,399,750	55,116	1,344,634	3.9	96.1
1870 (JUNE 1)...	1,071,361	36,218	1,035,143	3.4	96.6
1860 (JUNE 1)...	992,622	24,554	968,068	2.5	97.5
1850 (JUNE 1)...	869,039	21,109	847,930	2.4	97.6
1840 (JUNE 1)...	753,419	13,310	740,109	1.8	98.2
1830 (JUNE 1)...	737,987	10,455	727,532	1.4	98.6
1820 (AUG. 7)...	638,829	12,502	626,327	2.0	98.0
1810 (AUG. 6)...	555,500	-	555,500	-	100.0
1800 (AUG. 4)...	478,103	-	478,103	-	100.0
1790 (AUG. 2)....	393,751	-	393,751	-	100.0

1/ U. S. Department of Commerce - Bureau of the Census

POTATO ACREAGE UP SLIGHTLY

Tar Heel growers of commercial early Irish potatoes indicate as of April 1, 1952 that plantings will be 19,400 acres. This year's acreage is about 5 percent above the acreage planted last year. Some early plantings had to be replanted and in general completion of planting was delayed considerably by the excessive rainfall. As of April 1 only a small portion of the crop had surfaced therefore percent of stand could not be determined. The delayed planting will perhaps prolong the harvest season with the beginning and ending harvest dates being later than usual.

Condition of early potatoes in the the 10 Southern States and California is reported at 82 percent of normal, compared with the April 1, 1951 condition of 83 percent and the 10-year April 1 average of 79 percent.

Harvest of the winter crop in Florida nears completion. While yields from this acreage were considerably below those of last year, they were generally satisfactory. Harvest of the Hastings crop should reach volume proportion by mid-April. Condition of this crop is very good. In Texas, yields from the winter acreage were about average but the early spring crop was reduced by frosts and a shortage of irrigation water.

MARCH EGG PRODUCTION UP

During the month of March North Carolina farm flocks produced an estimated 148 million eggs, some 25 million eggs more than in the month of February. The 8,819,000 layers in farm flocks produced an average of 1,674 eggs per 100 layers during the month.

The number of eggs produced during March is up 20 percent from the preceding month of February, although the number of layers in farm flocks remained the same. The increased rate of lay per 100 layers accounts for the increased egg production.

Weather conditions during March were generally favorable for egg production.

U. S. farm flocks laid 6,441,000,000 eggs in March - 5 percent above both March last year and the 1941-50 average. Egg Production was above that of last year in all areas of the country. It was up 6 percent in the North Atlantic and West, 5 percent in the North Central, 3 percent in the South Atlantic, and 1 percent in the South Central States. Egg production for the first quarter of this year was 7 percent larger than for the same quarter last year and 16 percent above average.

RECORD WHEAT CROP IN PROSPECT

As of April 1, reports from Tar Heel wheat producers indicate another large wheat crop for the State. April 1 prospects are for a crop of 8,113,000 bushels compared with the record crop of 8,763,000 bushels produced last year. Such a crop would be the fourth largest of record for the State.

The 1952 wheat acreage generally was planted under unfavorable conditions. However, with a few exceptions the early spring weather to date has been very favorable for the wheat crop. The crop in most areas has made good growth and the condition on April 1 was the best for this State since 1946. Because of the dry soils at planting time last fall germination was spotted in some sections, resulting in stands somewhat thinner than normal. However, subsequent favorable weather has about offset this through vigorous growth and excellent stooling of the plants. The application of top-dressing was delayed by wet soils in some areas. The introduction and use of new Atlas varieties of wheat have had considerable influence on raising the level of yields.

Across the Nation the 1952 winter wheat crop is forecast at 947 million bushels. A production of this size would exceed the 1951 crop of 645 million bushels by 47 percent and would be nearly one-fifth larger than the average of 800 million bushels. With continued favorable prospects in most areas, except in the Southwest, production prospects since last December 1 have improved 29 million bushels, - or about 3 percent. Current prospects are based upon an appraisal of the April 1 condition of the crop as reported by individual growers, on moisture reserves, winter survival of plants and other factors affecting crop production.

BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS INCREASE

Hatcheries and dealers serving the Central and Western North Carolina commercial broiler areas placed 4,539,000 baby chicks with broiler producers during March. This is 8.2 percent more than total placements of 4,195,000 in the above areas during February.

Commercial hatcheries serving these areas set 7,673,000 eggs during March or 12.4 percent below the 6,828,000 eggs set during February.

Prices received by growers for broilers sold during March at Central North Carolina markets averaged slightly over 28 cents per pound (FOB Farm). This was about two cents per pound less than the average price received during March of last year.

RYE PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

April 1 prospects for North Carolina's rye crop appeared favorable. Condition of the crop as of April 1 is estimated at 86 percent of normal, 3 points below that reported a year ago.

Although seeding conditions were not too good, Tar Heel farmers were able to get most of their intended acreage planted.

The rye crop suffered no apparent damage by the cold spell in March and in general the condition of the crop has improved over that in previous months.

Carryover of cotton next August 1 may drop below the 2.3 million bales of August 1, 1951, the lowest of the last 28 years. U. S. mill consumption is expected to be about 9.5 million and exports about 6 million—a total of 15.5 million bales. Supply for the season is estimated at 17.4 million.

FARM STOCKS OF GRAIN DOWN

Total stocks of the six major grain crops (including soybeans) on North Carolina farms April 1, 1952 are estimated at 32,031,000 bushels. This is a decrease of 9 percent compared with stocks on farms a year ago, but 9 percent greater than the 10-average of 29,417,000 bushels.

The decrease in supplies of grains on farms April 1, came primarily as a result of smaller stocks of corn. Slight decreases also occurred in farm stocks of soybeans and rye. These decreases more than offset increases in stocks of wheat, oats, and barley. April 1 stocks of wheat were almost double the amount on North Carolina farms on the same date a year ago.

Stocks of corn amounted to 27,433,000 bushels and represented 86 percent of the total grain stocks on farms April 1.

GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS APRIL 1

CROP	AVERAGE	1951	1952
	1941-50	Stocks	Stocks
	000	000	000
NORTH CAROLINA			
CORN, BU.	25,644	31,407	27,433
WHEAT, BU.	1,178	587	1,052
OATS, BU.	1,539	2,103	2,283
BARLEY, BU.	165	116	302
RYE, BU.	32	26	21
SOYBEANS, BU.	859	1,045	940
UNITED STATES			
CORN, BU.	1,263,697	1,323,306	1,067,779
WHEAT, BU.	226,697	217,111	201,500
OATS, BU.	476,528	544,347	516,603
BARLEY, BU.	80,316	89,268	78,131
RYE, BU.	4,508	3,899	3,412
SOYBEANS, BU.	38,732	48,085	59,603

FARM REPORT

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APRIL 15, 1952

FARM REPORT

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MARCH WEATHER SUMMARY

March moved into North Carolina like the traditional lion, with winds and thunderstorms accompanying the passage of a weather front through the State on the eve of the 1st. Several other windy periods occurred, particularly on the 10-11th, the 13th, and again around mid-month. These winds reached mildly destructive proportions at times in small local areas. Equally in accord with tradition, the month ended quietly. Between storms, the weather was usually bright and fair; the total amount of sunshine during the month was above that usually expected in March.

In spite of the extremes of general weather, March temperatures were rather mild, with averages in all parts of the State about what is expected at the end of the winter season. No unusual extremes of either heat or cold were reported, and no temperature records broken. It was coolest around the end of the first week and again about mid-month, when the mercury dropped to freezing all the way to the coast. The last two weeks were warmer, with few freezing mornings outside the mountains. The warmest period was around the 20th, when stations from the mountain valleys eastward reported readings near 80 degrees.

March rainfall was abundant in all general areas of North Carolina, and excessive in many places. The lightest falls were in the interior southeast where a little less than a four-inch average was reported, or about the usual amount for March. Heaviest precipitation was in the southern mountains, where from ten to more than eighteen inches were reported. The most general heavy rains fell on the 3rd and 4th, again near the 10th, and during a four day period centered around the 24th. The average amount for the State was near eight inches.

NORTH CAROLINA & UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER FEBRUARY 1951-1952*

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVESTOCK		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVESTOCK	
	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
	THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.		THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.	
CATTLE..	6.3	6.5	5,209	5,288	1,220.9	1,326.0	1,201,978	1,300,874
CALVES..	3.4	3.0	671	504	653.7	614.0	116,973	116,151
HOGS....	39.0	53.0	8,578	11,919	5,222.1	7,048.4	1,245,784	1,689,063
SHEEP & LAMBS..	.1	-	.9	-	790.4	1,059.5	81,195	109,772

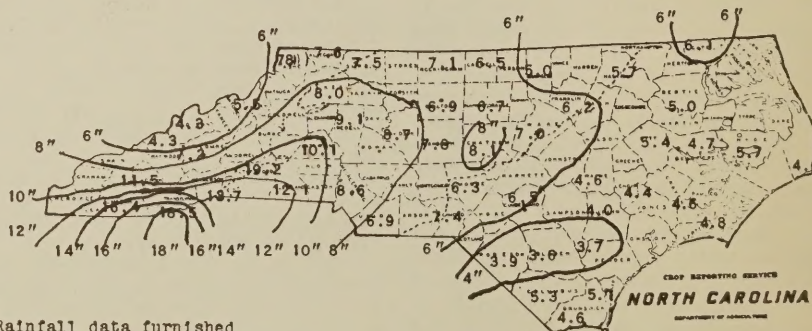
* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

FEBRUARY SLAUGHTER 12% ABOVE A YEAR AGO

February production of meat by commercial plants in North Carolina totaled 17,711,000 pounds, or 12 percent greater than in February a year ago. Practically all of this gain came about through an unusually large number of hogs being slaugh-

tered during the month. The 53,000 head of hogs slaughtered was the largest number of hogs slaughtered for any single month since monthly estimates were undertaken in 1946 and compares with 28,700 in January 1952 and 39,000 in February 1951.

NORTH CAROLINA INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING MARCH, 1952



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Charles B. Carney
Meteorologist